



galerie **leonard**
& bina
ellen
art gallery

READING EXERCISES



Exhibition view: vernissage and performance (*Encomium I, II, III*). Photo: Jean-Louis René

EXHIBITION PROGRAMMING YEAR 2015-2016

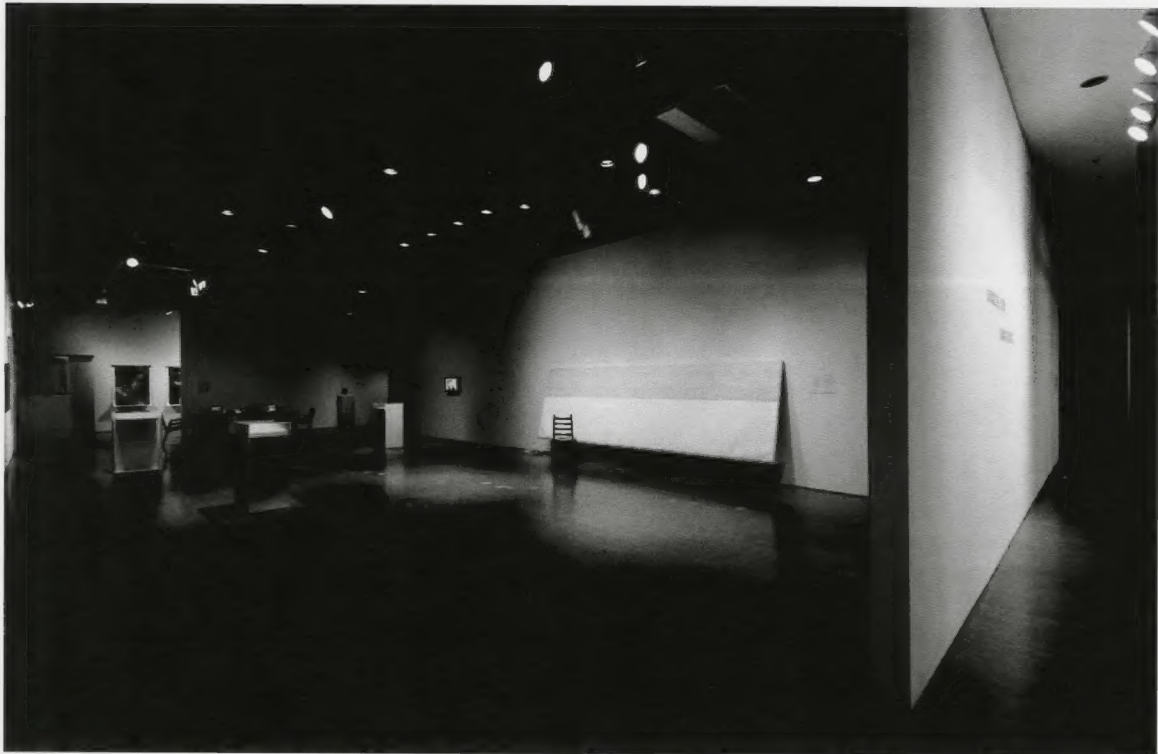
Exhibition Title: *Reading Exercises*

Organized by: Curator, Katrie Chagnon

Artists: Fiona Banner, Simon Bertrand, Clayton Cubitt, Ricardo Cuevas, Brendan Fernandes, Gary Hill, Bouchra Khalili, Ève K. Tremblay, Nicoline van Harskamp and *#ReadTheTRCReport*, an initiative by Erica Violet Lee, Joseph Murdoch-Flowers, and Zoe Todd, presented in collaboration with *No Reading After the Internet*, a project by Amy Kazymierchyk, Alexander Muir, and cheyanne turions

Exhibition Dates: November 19, 2015 – January 23, 2016

Opening: Wednesday, November 18, 2015. 5:30 – 7:30 pm



Exhibition view. Photo: Paul Litherland

EXHIBITION DESCRIPTION (Text taken from press release)

In recent years, upheavals to traditional reading methods brought on by the development of new digital media (tablets, e-readers, computer screens) have led to much nostalgic discourse foretelling the imminent demise of book culture and its replacement by a widespread new regime of entertainment. Running counter to this trend, many artists today are revisiting the act of reading and reinventing its rules, inviting us to think differently about contemporary issues surrounding this practice.

The exhibition *Reading Exercises* juxtaposes recent works that, each in their own way, speak to a renewed relationship to reading, viewed as a space for productive experimentation and critical investigation. As the title suggests, reading is addressed and deployed in this exhibition specifically as an *exercise*—physical, mental, cognitive, pedagogical, epistemological, political, ethical, etc. Whether considered in the sense of training (requiring repetition and work, as in long-term effort), or associated with the social, cultural and political conditions of individual as well as collective practice, the expression “reading exercises” aims to convey the complexity of this activity that cannot be confined to the mere notion of a profound literary experience cut off from the outside world.

Reading aloud, manipulating documents, memorizing, translating, transcribing, re-reading and reinterpretation of canonical texts are some of the strategies employed by the artists represented in this exhibition to reappropriate the fields of knowledge, language and writing. Their works raise a series of questions about our cognitive faculties, the involvement of the body, contexts of utterances, modes of subjectivation, relations of power, and the formation of social, cultural and gender identities, among other things. As such, they serve to broaden our thinking on what it means to read in our day and age.



Installation view. Photo: Paul Litherland.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS / SPECIAL EVENTS (free admission)

- Group Reading: *Reading the Dispossessed*, Danielle Aubert. October 29 + 30, 2015.
- Opening & Dance Performance (*Encomium I, II, III*). November 18, 5:30 – 7:30 pm.
- Conversation: Brendan Fernandes with Matthew-Robin Nye. November 20, 4-5:30pm.
- Conversation between Katrie Chagnon and Guylaine Beaudry. November 25, 2015, 6pm
- Performative installation: Simon Bertrand *Retranscription of La Bible – nouvelle traduction*. November 21, December 5, 9 and 16, 2-5pm.
- Salon: No Reading After the Internet. January 19, 2016, 7pm.
- Public Seminar: *Reading as Methodology* (at Artexte). January 21, 2016, 6-8pm.
- Reading Marathon. January 23, 2016, 12-5pm.
- Workshop: *Alter-Egos, Covert Navigation, and Disruption* presented by Walter Scott (at the Concordia Print Media Digital Lab), January 29, 2016, 12-3pm.
- Lecture/Performance: *WALTER SCOTT: WENDY'S REVENGE* performed with Tricia Livingston. January 29, 2016, 6-7pm.

PUBLICATIONS

A brochure containing a curatorial essay by Katrie Chagnon was produced for this exhibition.

Distribution: English version (375), French version (325)

A PDF of the booklet is available online:

http://ellengallery.concordia.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/READING-EXERCISES_KC.pdf

Ways of Thinking / Pistes des reflexions on-line versions were available via the Gallery's website:

<http://ellengallery.concordia.ca/?piste-de-reflexion=exercices-de-lecture&lang=en>

PRESS REVIEW

Marie-Ève Charron, *Travaux de groupe*, *Le Devoir*, August 29, 2015.

<http://www.ledevoir.com/culture/arts-visuels/448757/travaux-de-groupe>

cheyanne turions, *Reading Exercises*, Personal blog entry, November 9, 2015.

<https://cheyanneturions.wordpress.com/tag/leonard-bina-ellen-art-gallery/>

Tracey Lindeman, *The power of the page*, *Concordia News*, November 18, 2015.

<http://www.concordia.ca/cunews/main/stories/2015/11/18/reading-exercises-an-exhibition-at-the-ellen-gallery.html>

Nicolas Mavrikakis, *Mémoire vive*, *Le Devoir*, December 5, 2015.

<http://www.ledevoir.com/culture/arts-visuels/457036/memoire-vive>

Radio interview :

CKUT Café - Interview (French) with the exhibition's Curator Katrie Chagnon – January 22, 2016.

ATTENDANCE

Number of days open to the public:	40
Total Exhibition Attendance:	1374
Total exhibition attendance (excluding events):	673

** This exhibition also included tours (See Education Final Report).*

DOCUMENTATION

Digital images by Paul Litherland/Studio Lux. © Leonard & Bina Ellen Art Gallery, Concordia University, Montreal.

LIST OF WORKS

Fiona Banner, *Trance*, 1997. Audio Book. Graphite on paper, tape box with 22 audio cassettes, audio recording transferred on digital support, 20 hours

Simon Bertrand, *Retranscription of la Bible – nouvelle traduction*, 2009-present. Paper, 0.05 ink pen, wood and *La Bible – Nouvelle traduction*

Clayton Cubitt, *Hysterical Literature, Sessions 01-11*, 2012-2015. Series of 11 videos, variable durations

Ricardo Cuevas, *Index/Criminal Offenses, Chapter 11*, 2008-2015. 7 braille books, graphite

Brendan Fernandes, *Encomium I, II, III*, 2011. Live performance, videos, poster multiples, plexiglas plinths, vinyl

Brendan Fernandes, *Symposium I, II, III*, 2011. 3 silkscreens on paper. Ed. of 6

Brendan Fernandes, *Performing Foe*, 2009. Video, 2 min. 41 sec.

Gary Hill, *Remarks on Color / Remarques sur les couleurs*, 1994-1998 (bilingual version, 2015). Video projection, sound, 45 min. and 49 min.

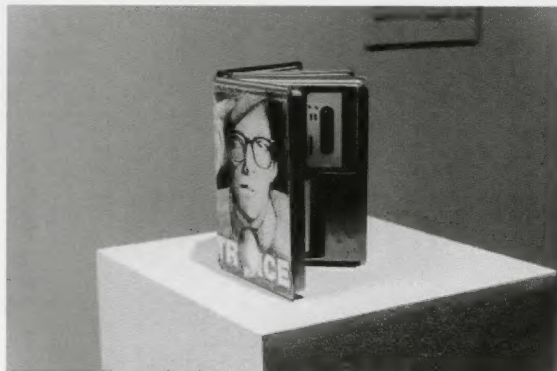
Bouchra Khalili, *Speeches – Chapter 1: Mother Tongue*, 2012. From *The Speeches Series, a video trilogy*, 2012-2013. Video projection, sound, 23 min.

Ève K. Tremblay, *EKTB451/EKTFF451 (Ève K. Tremblay Becoming Fahrenheit 451 / Ève K. Tremblay Forgetting Fahrenheit 451)*, 2007-2015. Book, photographs, drawings, collages, letters, ceramics and a video documentation of a performance

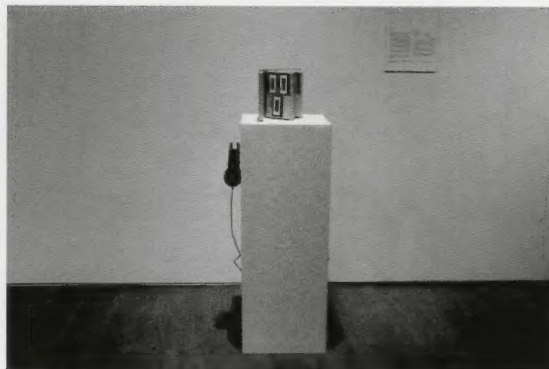
Nicoline van Harskamp, *A Romance in Five Acts and Twenty-one Englishes*, 2015

An initiative of Zoe Todd, Erica Violet Lee and Joseph Murdoch-Flowers, presented in collaboration with *No Reading After the Internet*, a project by cheyanne turions, Amy Lynn Kazymierchyk and Alexander Muir. *#ReadTheTRCReport*, 2015. A video project accompanied by a series of readings and conversations, presentation with table, chairs, videos on digital tablets, books and documents

LIST OF WORKS + DOCUMENTATION



Photos: Paul Litherland.



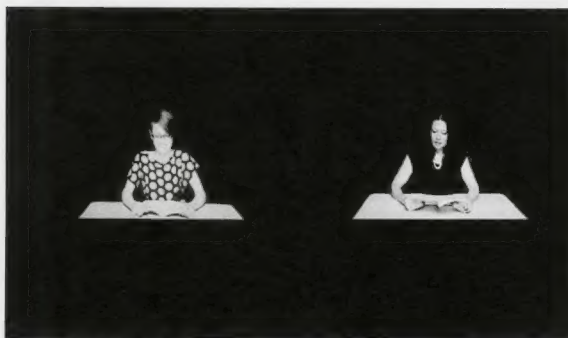
Fiona Banner, *Trance*, 1997. Audio Book. Graphite on paper, tape box with 22 audio cassettes, audio recording transferred on digital support, 20 hours. Courtesy of the artist and Frith Street Gallery, London



Photos: Paul Litherland.



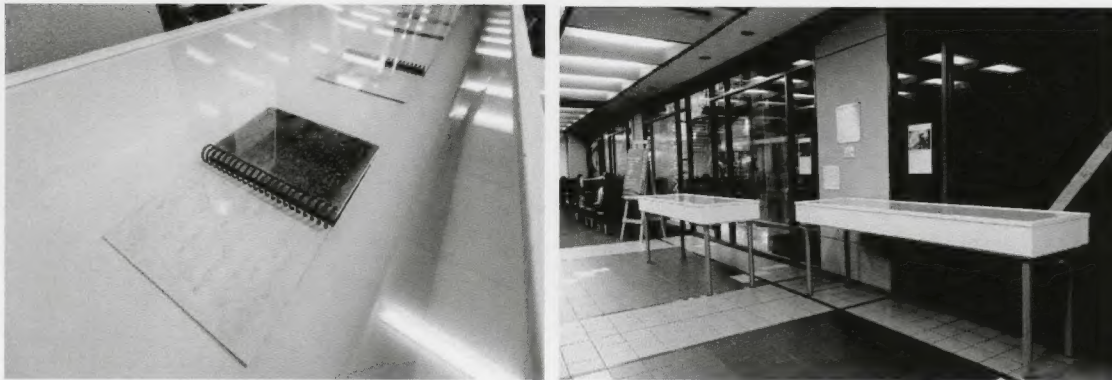
Simon Bertrand, *Retranscription of la Bible – nouvelle traduction* (2009-present)
Paper, 0.05 ink pen, wood and *La Bible – Nouvelle traduction*. Courtesy of the artist and Galerie René Blouin, Montreal



Photos: Paul Litherland.

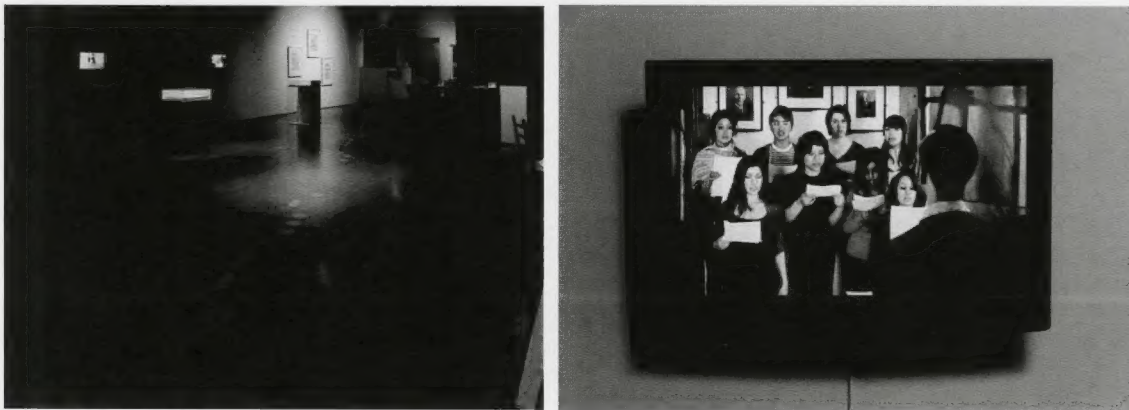


Clayton Cubitt, *Hysterical Literature, Sessions 01-11*, 2012-2015. Series of 11 videos. Variable durations. Courtesy of the artist



Photos: Paul Litherland.

Ricardo Cuevas, *Index/Criminal Offenses, Chapter 11*, 2008-2015. 7 braille books, graphite.
 Courtesy of the artist.



Photos: Paul Litherland.

Left:

Brendan Fernandes, *Encomium I, II, III*, 2011. Live performance, videos, poster multiples, plexiglas plinths, vinyl; *Symposium I, II, III*, 2011, 3 silkscreens on paper, edition of 6. Courtesy of the artist.

Right:

Performing Foe, 2009. Video, 2 min. 41 sec. Courtesy of the artist



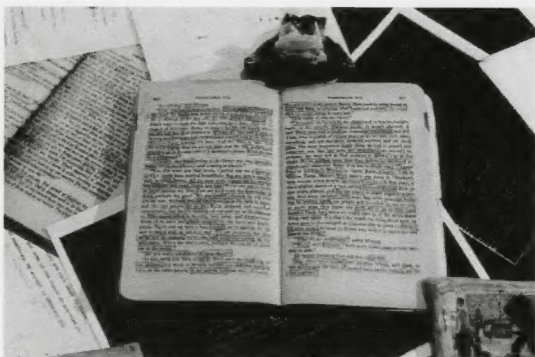
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Gary Hill, *Remarks on Color / Remarques sur les couleurs*, 1994-1998 (bilingual version, 2015). Video projection, sound, 45 min. and 49 min. Courtesy of the artist and Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal



Photos: Paul Litherland.

Bouchra Khalili, *Speeches – Chapter 1: Mother Tongue*, 2012. From *The Speeches Series*, a video trilogy, 2012-2013. Video projection, sound, 23 min. Courtesy of the artist / Galerie Polaris, Paris / ADAGP.



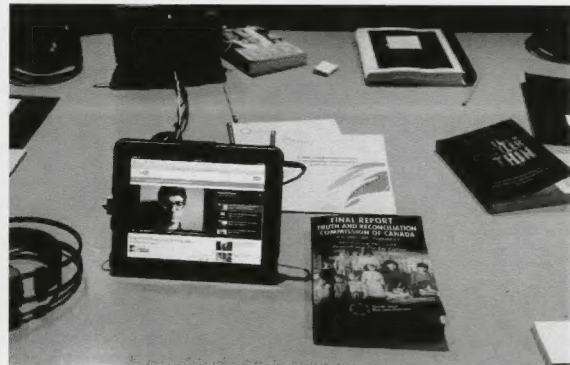
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Ève K. Tremblay, *EKTB451/EKTFF451* (*Ève K. Tremblay Becoming Fahrenheit 451 / Ève K. Tremblay Forgetting Fahrenheit 451*), 2007-2015. Book, photographs, drawings, collages, letters, ceramics and a video documentation of a performance. Courtesy of the artist.



Photos: Paul Litherland.

Nicoline van Harskamp, *A Romance in Five Acts and Twenty-one Englishes*, 2015. Made possible by the Mondriaan Fund. Courtesy of the artist.



Photos: Paul Litherland.

An initiative of Zoe Todd, Erica Violet Lee and Joseph Murdoch-Flowers, presented in collaboration with *No Reading After the Internet*, a project by cheyanne turions, Amy Lynn Kazymierchyk and Alexander Muir. **#ReadTheTRCReport**, 2015. A video project accompanied by a series of readings and conversations, presentation with table, chairs, videos on digital tablets, books and documents